ZS9YOTA in December

Here is your chance to get a young person hooked to amateur radio. As announced in last week's South African Radio League News, for the entire month of December, stations in several countries will be on the air seeking contacts with young amateurs using "YOTA" as their call sign suffix.

To date 35 call signs have been registered for the event, including ZS9YOTA. YOTA stations will be seeking to make many contacts, so use this opportunity to connect young amateurs in their teens and 20s with their peers on the air worldwide

The South African Radio League has been granted a special call sign, ZS9YOTA, to be used by young amateurs during YOTA month from 1 to 31 December 2014. Please note that the ZS9YOTA call sign is used primarily to put Youngsters on the Air. IARU Region 1 defines youngsters as people under 26.

If you are 25 years old or younger, you are invited to apply to use the special call sign either as an individual or as a club station operated by young people.

Send your request to Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL at zs6ql@mweb.co.za. Give up your twitter, WhatsApp and Facebook time and experience some real and great communication

Slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Allocated slots will be shown on www.hamradio.org.za where you will find more detailed information and lots of other interesting information about YOTA 2014. When returning your ZS9YOTA log, include a photograph of yourself or group operating your station, in order to place it on the ZS9YOTA webpages.

Clubs are encouraged to participate in this event and to make use of this opportunity to get young amateurs together and use the ZS9YOTA call sign during December.

An Additional Bonus. If you apply for the use of the ZS9YOTA call sign and a young amateur sends in a log with at least 10 contacts the greatest of all amateur radio handbooks will be awaiting a lucky winner. In January 2015, all logs will be entered into a lucky draw and the winner will receive the 2015 bible of Amateur Radio, the ARRL Handbook 2015 hard cover edition.

South African Radio League - 90

From 1 January 2015, the special call sign ZS90SARL will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the South African Radio League. The South African Radio Relay League was formed in May 1925. The name was later changed to the South African Radio League.

From January until the culminations of the celebration at the annual Convention in Bloemfontein in April, Amateur Radio Today will transmit a weekly audio clip highlighting the amazing events of the past 90 years.
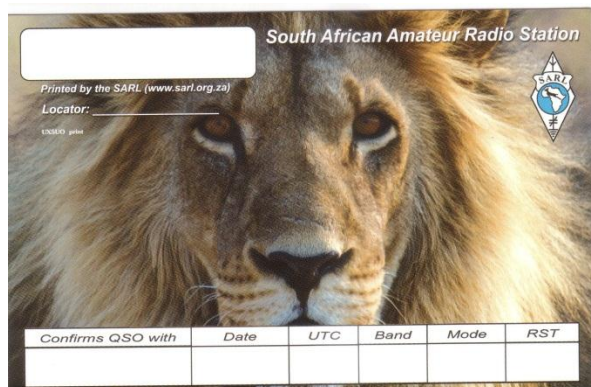
In addition, the South African Radio League has been given a special call sign by ICASA to celebrate the anniversary. The call sign is ZS90SARL. It is available to all affiliated clubs on a rotation bases for period on one week (Monday to Sunday). Applications for use of the call sign will be open from Monday 1

Secember and applications should be sent by e-mail to ZS90@sarl.org.za. Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, will coordinate the allocation and from time to time, a schedule will be published on the South African Radio League web. Please gave a few alternative weeks.

Clubs applying for the use of the call sign must clearly indicate times and frequency of operation. Logs must be kept electronically, preferably in the N1MM format and forwarded at the end of the week to contest@sarl.org.za for uploading to Logbook of the World. Special QSL card are being designed and soon be available.

IOTA News

The IT Team to take IOTA project development forward has now been appointed. It consists of Johan, PA3EXX (Team Leader), Jim, G3VDB, Vincent F4BKV, Bob, MD0CCE, on the technical side with Cezar, VE3LYC, and Roger, G3KMA, representing the users. The focus will be on the development of online island credit submission (Paperless QSLing) as a new feature of the programme. The team have already started work with the aim of submitting the initial Project Proposal by the spring.

QSLing is the final courtesy of a QSO

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card, which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, including postage. To order, pay in the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL account.

Account details: ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005. Send details

December

3 – Day of Persons with Disabilities
7 – SARL Digital Contest
10 – Schools close
12 to 23 – 2014 Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg
13 and 14 – ARRL 10 Metre Contest
16 – Day of Reconciliation
24 – Christmas Eve
25 – Christmas Day
26 - Family Day
27 and 28 – Iron Ham Contest
31 – 2014 CQ Marathon ends; Old Year's Eve

January 2015

1 – New Year's Day; start of ZS90SARL; start of CQ Marathon
10 and 11 – Hunting Lions in the Air
14 – Inland schools open
16 to 18 – PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
21 – Coastal schools open
24 – Summer QRP Contest

of the delivery address and proof of payment to zs6wwj@gmail.com.

South African Radio League National Field Day

The contest committee received 11 logs for the second leg of the National Field Day. Thank you to everybody who submitted logs.

The Bloemfontein ARC did not participate in the November NFD as the memorial service for the late Jenni Reily, ZS4J, (club secretary) was held on Saturday 15 November.

Class A – Field Station, Multi operator
1st Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, 81 480 points
2nd West Rand ARC, ZS6WR, 77 004 points
3rd Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, 61 452 points
4th Sandton ARC, ZS6STN, 49 248 points
5th East Rand ARC, ZS6ERB, 24 480 points
6th Zululand ARC, ZS6ZLB, 21 252 points
(Five of these stations have better scores than the February leg!)

Class B – Field Station –Multi operator – QRP
No entry

Class C – Field Station –Single Operator
1st Dennis Green, ZS4BS, 60 points

Class D – Field Station –Single Operator – QRP
No entry

Class E - Ultra light portable:
1st Andries Visagie, ZS6VL/4, 27 240 points

Class F - General stations
1st Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT, 11 808 points
2nd Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 730 points
3rd Peet Pretorius, ZS4VP, 300 points

Congratulations to everybody

The combined results of the February and the November legs of the National Field Day

Class A – Field Station, Multi operator
1st East Rand ARC, ZS6ERB, 153 600 points
2nd Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, 150 480 points
3rd West Rand ARC, ZS6WR, 127 884 points
4th Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, 104 052 points
5th Sandton ARC, ZS6STN, 79 908 points
6th Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK, 42 840 points
7th Zululand ARC, ZS6ZLB, 33 012 points

Class B – Field Station –Multi operator – QRP
No entry

Class C – Field Station –Single Operator
1st Dennis Green, 7P8DG, 15 648 points
2nd Robbie Parkinson, ZS1RAP, 12 192 points
3rd Dennis Green, ZS4BS, 60 points

Class D – Field Station –Single Operator - QRP
1st Richard Hayter, ZS6RSH, 24 624 points

Class E - Ultra light portable:
1st Andries Visagie, ZS6VL/4, 27 240 points
2nd Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, 1 890 points

Class F - General stations
1st Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT, 39 948 points
2nd Johann van Zijl, ZS4DZ, 6 012 points
3rd Pravin Kumar, ZS5LT, 5 824 points
4th Port Elizabeth ARS, ZS2PE, 3 312 points
5th Willie Axford, ZS5WI, 2 828 points
6th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 730 points

7th Koos du Plessis, ZS6BFD, 440 points
8th Peet Pretorius, ZS4VP, 300 points
9th Gavin Spowart, ZS6BWW, 200 points

Congratulations to everybody.

2015 South African Radio League National Field Day

The dates for the 2015 National Field Day in 2015 are 14 and 15 February 2015 and 12 and 13 September 2015 (note the new date for the second leg).

The VHF/UHF Contest reverts to 21 and 22 March 2015 and 19 and 20 September 2015.

Real Time Band Conditions Web Site

The purpose of this experimental Web site is to provide 24-7-365 actual (real time) band condition information to CW QRPp, QRPe and CW/SSB for Contesters interested in increasing their scores.
http://www.bandconditions.com

It can also be of benefit to other Radio Amateurs to determine band conditions for Nets and casual QSOs. This information is NOT based on any software predictions or any kind of satellite based readings. It is based on a new Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA.

Amateur Radio Apps

The recent West Mountain Radio newsletter contained a great list of amateur radio apps for your smartphone. Some are free and some are a couple of dollars - all are useful. Of course, there are many more amateur radio apps out there. Just search for "ham radio" at your favourite app store.
http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/winter-2014-newsletter.pdf

Classic Radio Magazines

Dave, KM3T, spotted an online archive of searchable PDFs for a number of classic radio and electronics magazines such as the complete collection of *Popular Electronics*

from 1954 - 1982 and the Hugo Gernsback original, *Radio-Craft*.
http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Popular-Electronics-Guide.htm

Web Site of the Week

The WRTC-2018 Organizing Committee http://wrtc2018.de is pleased to announce the Team Selection Criteria for the WRTC 2018. http://wrtc2018.de/en/qualifying

A committee led by Ulf, DL5AXX, worked very hard and had long discussions to create this new set of rules. Whoever the 49 Team Leaders will be, they will have to excel in contests from February 2015 to November 2016. The list of teams includes 3 Youth Teams, the 2014 WRTC champions, KL9A and N6MJ, and some wild card slots, too. The changes in contests and category weighting reflect the continuing evolution of contest operating since the first WRTC in 1990.

Word to the Wise

Do not spend two days listening to high-speed CW and then casually turn on the local Sunday night folk music show featuring Celtic piping. At least prepare to be amazed at what your brain does with it! You have been warned. By the way, for those of you still hearing random bits of CW, it is called "ghost code." Some operators hear it for less than an hour and some for a couple of days - the time it takes for your audio neurons to revert to their normal programming.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Chagos Island, VQ9/VQ92, (Attention Prefix Hunters). Robert, N7XR, will be active as VQ9XR for his operations in 2014/2015. Activity will start on or about 3 December for approximately 3 weeks (19 December). Operations will be on 160 - 10 metres with a focus on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign direct only. No Bureau or LoTW.

Added Note: Robert may use the call sign V92XR instead, which gives the prefix hunters a new prefix.

Canary Islands, AF-004; EA8. Andrea, IK1PMR and Claudia, PA3LEO will once again be active signing EA8/home call from 9 December to 8 January on all the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. Direct QSL via HB9FKK, bureau QSL also via home call. For more information, visit http://www.ik1pmr.com/

Bouvet Island, 3Y/B (update from UN7PCZ). A team of 12 operators are planning to set up six complete stations for a 2 weeks operation. They state [edited], "It is very difficult to find a time window between the Heard and Palmyra DXpeditions. Yes, preliminary window is between 17 December 2015 and 10 January 2016."

FT4TA Tromelin Slideshow. Flo, F5CWU, reports: "We are pleased to share with you some pictures of our mission 'Tromelin 2014,' FT4TA. During our stay on Tromelin, we have made thousands of photos and just selected few. At the same time, we are in the process of writing the stories for publication in various journals. A video of the expedition is being assembled. The data is being sent and it should be available early in 2015." Click on the link to see the photos
http://www.tromelin2014.com/actualite/cliches-de-loperation-tromelin2014-ft4ta/

African DX

Senegal, 6W. The Association des Radioamateurs du Senegal (ARAS) will conduct its annual expedition to the island of Goree (AF-045) on 5 – 7 December. The call sign will be 6V1A. QSL via operator's instructions.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 1 to 8 De-

Your comments, suggestions and news items are welcome. If you have some DX news, contest news or something of interest, send it to zs4bs@netactive.co.za

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cember 2014

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest: 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW); 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB); 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 4 December
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 18 December 2014
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 – 02:15 UTC 5 December
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 7 December 2014
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 – 03:30 UTC 5 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 6 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint
02:30 – 03:00 UTC 5 December
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 7 December 2014
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

ARRL 160-Meter Contest
22:00 UTC 5 December to 16:00 UTC 7 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unlimited - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single
Max operating hours: 42 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE Station: 5 points per DX QSO
Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)
Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 6 January 2015
E-mail logs to: 160meter@arrl.org
Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/160-meter

TARA RTTY Melee
00:00 – 24:00 UTC 6 December
Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - low or high; Multi-Op - low or high; SWL

Max operating hours: 16 hours, off time in no more than 2 blocks

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; DX: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each state once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total state mults and total province mults and total country mults)

Submit logs by: 31 December 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_score.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

06:00 – 06:29 UTC, 06:30 – 06:59 UTC, 07:00 – 07:29 UTC and 07:30 – 08:00 UTC 6 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, serial no, suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 1 point per km

Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points

Submit logs by: 13 December 2014

E-mail logs to: ru-qrp-club@mail.ru

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng

VU International DX Contest

12:00 UTC 6 December to 12:00 UTC 7 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op – CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single – CW, SSB or mixed; Multi-Multi – CW, SSB or mixed

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: VU: RS(T) and Indian state; non-VU: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 6 points per QSO between VU and other countries; 3 points per QSO between Asian countries and non-Asian countries

Multipliers: VU: Each country once per band; Asia: Each VU state and each DXCC country once per band; DX: Each VU state and Asian country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 December 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@arsi.info

Mail logs to: Prasad Rajagopal, PO Box 7523, Bangalore, 560075, India

Find rules at:

http://arsi.info/contests/international/rules

TOPS Activity Contest

16:00 UTC 6 December to 15:59 UTC 7 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single

Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, serial no and Club abbreviation; non-Members: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point; QSO with own continent or other continents: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points

Multipliers: Each prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 December 2014

Your comments, suggestions and news items are welcome. If you have some DX news, contest news or something of interest, send it to zs4bs@netactive.co.za

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E-mail logs to: contest@procwclub.ro
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.yo2rr.ro/TAC%20Rules.html

EPC Ukraine DX Contest
20:00 UTC 6 December to 19:59 UTC 7 December
Mode: BPSK63
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - 12 hour or 24 hour; Single Op Low Band; Single Op High Band; Multi-Single
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Ukraine: RSQ and Ukr Admin Region; non-Ukraine: RSQ and QSO no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different country; 5 points per QSO with different continent; non-Ukraine: 10 points per QSO with Ukrainian station
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each Ukrainian administrative region once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 December 2014
E-mail logs to: contest@ut7fp.kiev.ua
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://ut7fp.kiev.ua/2010epc-ukr-dx/EPC%20Ukraine_eng.html

AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party
23:00 UTC 6 December to 23:00 UTC 7 December and 23:00 UTC, Dec 13 to 23:00 UTC, Dec 14
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, name, QTH, Equipment Year and Transmitter Type (see rules for format)
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 15 January 2015
E-mail logs to: wa9wfa@comcast.net

Mail logs to: Scott Freeberg, WA9WFA, 327 Wildwood Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55110, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.antiquewireless.org/awa-on-the-air.html

Ten-Meter RTTY Contest
00:00 – 24:00 UTC 7 December
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: W: RST and state; VE: RST and province/territory; non-W/VE: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each US state (excluding KH6 and KL7) and DC once; Each VE province or territory once; Each DXCC country (excluding W/VE)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 15 December 2014
E-mail logs to: ten-rtty@kkn.net
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.rttycontesting.com/ten-meter-rtty-contest/rules/

SARL Digital Contest
13:00 - 16:00 UTC 7 December
Mode: PSK, RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and QSO no
Work stations: Once per mode per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: December 14, 2014
E-mail logs to: contest@sarl.org.za
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.sarl.org.za/Document_Store/CONT_20140101_SARL_Contest_Manual_2014.pdf

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run
21:00 - 22:59 UTC 7 December
Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: W: single element wire antenna; V: vertical antenna; B: multi-element arrays/beams; P: portable

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, antenna class and CQC Member no or power

Work stations: Same station up to 3 times, at least 30 minutes between QSOs

QSO Points: 1st QSO with station: 3 points; 2nd QSO with same station: 2 points; 3rd QSO with same station: 1 point; Bonus: 100 points for first QSO with W0CQC

Multipliers: Each state, province, country, CQC member once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x CQC members

Submit logs by: 6 January 2015

E-mail logs to: ki0rb@arrl.net

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.cqc.org/contests/snow2014.htm

Next Week's Contests

AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, 23:00 UTC 6 December to 23:00 UTC 7 December and 23:00 UTC 13 December to 23:00 UTC 14 December

NAQCC CW Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 10 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 10 December

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 10 December; 03:00 – 04:00 UTC 11 December

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 -02:15 UTC 12 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 12 December

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 December

ARRL 10-Meter Contest, 00:00 UTC 13 December to 24:00 UTC 14 December

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 13 December to 24:00 UTC 14 December

International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 13 December to 15:59 UTC 14 December

QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint, 20:00 - 23:59 UTC 14 December

History this Week
Week starting 1 December 2014

1732 - James Blair was rescued from a fire in a coalmine. William Tossach, a Scottish surgeon revived him using mouth-to-mouth ventilation

1799 - Metric System established in France

1876 - Daniel Stillson (Massachusetts) patents first practical pipe wrench

1893 - First Electric Car built in Toronto, could go 15 miles between charges

1909 - George Taylor makes first free flight in a glider at Narrabeen Beach, New South Wales

1941 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbour, brings the USA into WW2

1942 - First controlled nuclear chain reaction (Enrico Fermi - University of Chicago)

1996 - NASA's first Mars rover launched from Cape Canaveral

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin